



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Special Academic Program Establishment Request

June 5, 2015

The Division received a proposal to establish the International and Academic English Program today, May 8, 2015. The Special Academic Program must be in place fall 2015; therefore, the Division reluctantly forwards the proposal for review. Given the short turn around, all committees should comment via the RFC module. Divisional Chair will provide a response based on committee responses.

Council of School & College Faculty Chairs (ENGINEERING)

May 30, 2015 6:56 PM

Response continued on next page.

Thursday, May 28, 2015

To: Andre Knoesen, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate

From: Niels Grønbech-Jensen, Chair
College of Engineering Faculty Executive Committee

SUBJECT: Special Academic Program Establishment Request

The committee believes it is very important to maintain and strengthen English language proficiency among international students attending UC Davis. However, increasing the number of special programs and proliferation of bureaucracy require budget expansions that are always a concern. What are the real costs and resource burdens of this proposal? What are the real (not advertised) benefits? What are the metrics for assessing success, and who will be conducting the review? This effort may be useful, but limited time and resources may cause reason for viewing such proposal in light of many competing and pressing needs on campus.

Planning & Budget

May 27, 2015 8:50 AM

Response continued on next page.

Special Academic Program Establishment Request

CPB reviewed and discussed the Special Academic Program Establishment Request. Without budget information, the committee cannot consider the request; in addition, CPB also expects that consideration of the budget includes the stated level of program funding commitment from the administration. The program description lacks a fully enumerated scope and resource needs (number of faculty and staff positions). These two items are of particular concern given that the Linguistics Department indicated that one of the reasons they are divesting themselves of the responsibility for ESL is due to the lack of resources (people and funding) to support such a program.

There is no indication that the proposed program will involve Academic Senate faculty with expertise in ESL instruction. The advisory board, for which the expectation is that it will be overseen by Senate faculty and Academic Federation members with expertise in ESL, will be chaired by a faculty with an administrative appointment who, to our knowledge, holds no expertise in ESL instruction. Also, no indication is provided of the composition of the advisory board. The Academic Senate should have control over the curriculum and oversight, but does not necessarily need to teach all the courses. The faculty's role in delivering curriculum has been diminished with this Special Academic Program Establishment request. Finally, CPB members were in agreement that the ESL program should have an academic home. Finally, CPB has concerns with a graduate program being combined with an undergraduate program. It may be that Graduate Studies is a more logical home for the graduate component of the ESL program.

While CPB understands the urgency of this request, we believe the program should be approved for one year only. Resources, commitments and placement should be worked out and fully articulated before proceeding further.

Special Academic Programs

June 2, 2015 9:06 AM

The Committee on Special Academic Programs approves of the proposal as written.